

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02  
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USEEC, USOECD

USDOCOSOUTH FOR INTAF

USINFO FOR IOP/M, IBS/PN, IPS/PE, IEU

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EFIN, EGEN, IMF, TU  
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SUBJECT: TURKISH PRESS REPORTS ON TURKEY-IMF TALKS IN  
WASHINGTON

SUMMARY: EXAGGERATED OPTIMISM CHARACTERIZES TURKISH PRESS  
REPORTS OF CURRENT GOT-IMF TALKS. ONLY A FEW DAYS AFTER  
TALKS BEGAN, HEADLINES DECLARED THAT A STAND-BY AGREEMENT  
WAS IN THE IMMEDIATE OFFING. ALTHOUGH TURKS HAVE BECOME

SKEPTICAL OF IMF RELATED OPTIMISM, THOSE WHO SEE NEW HOPE IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT MAY BE ONCE AGAIN VULNERABLE TO DISAPPOINTMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER A FEW UNUSUALLY REASONED EARLY REPORTS, THE PRO-GOVERNMENT TURKISH PRESS EXHIBITED CONSIDERABLE OPTIMISM IN REPORTING ON CURRENT GOT-IMF TALKS IN WASHINGTON. IN SOME OF THE FIRST REPORTS TO APPEAR, MARCH 7 AND 8, SAYNUR GOREN, MILLIYET'S WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT, REPORTED ONLY THAT TALKS WERE BEING CONDUCTED IN A POSITIVE ATMOSPHERE, AND THAT THE IMF FOUND ECONOMIC MEASURES TAKEN BY THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT TO BE "POSITIVE". HOWEVER, ON MARCH 8, TWO DAYS AFTER TALKS BEGAN, HEADLINES IN LEFTIST CUMHURIYET READ, "IMF PROPOSES GIVING FIRST CREDIT TRANCHE IMMEDIATELY", AND ON MARCH 9 A STORY FROM THE ANADOLU AGENCY WAS HEADLINED, "AGREEMENT WITH IMF IS EXPECTED WITHIN ONE WEEK AT THE LATEST".

2. IN THE MARCH 8 CUMHURIYET REPORT, YALCIN DOGAN REPORTED FROM WASHINGTON THAT MR. WOODWARD, CHIEF OF THE IMF'S TURKEY DESK, DESCRIBED RECENT MEASURES TAKEN BY THE ECEVIT GOVERNMENT AS "COURAGEOUS AND VERY APPROPRIATE." DOGAN WENT ON TO SAY THAT, IN FINDING THE MEASURES "VERY APPROPRIATE", THE IMF (SIC) PROPOSED THAT TURKEY BE GIVEN 45 MILLION DOLLARS (FIRST TRANCHE), WHICH "MEANS AN UNCLASSIFIED

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ANNOUNCEMENT TO THE WORLD THAT TURKEY IS A COUNTRY TO WHICH CREDIT CAN BE GIVEN."

3. IN A STORY APPEARING IN LIBERAL MILLIYET MARCH 9, ANADOLU AGENCY REPORTED, "IT IS EXPECTED THAT (GOT-IMF) TALKS THAT BEGAN LAST MONDAY WILL RESULT IN A STAND-BY CREDIT AGREEMENT THIS WEEKEND, OR AT LATEST AT THE BEGINNING OF NEXT WEEK." IMF SOURCES REPORTEDLY SAID, HOWEVER, THAT THE AGREEMENT WOULD BECOME DEFINITE ONLY AFTER A TURKISH MINISTER WITH THE PROPER AUTHORITY SIGNED THE TEXT. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT THESE "FORMALITIES" WILL BE COMPLETED BY THE END OF MARCH. HURRIYET AND GUNAYDIN, POPULAR DAILIES, CARRIED SIMILAR STORIES FROM THEIR RESPECTIVE NEWS SERVICES.

4. ON MARCH 10, A REPORT FROM CUMHURIYET'S YALCIN DOGAN WAS MORE SOBER. DOGAN INDICATED THAT THE IMF FINDS SOME ELEMENTS OF THE 1978 PROGRAM EXCESSIVE OR UNREALISTIC, INCLUDING A 6.1 PERCENT DEVELOPMENT RATE, 2.5 BILLION DOLLARS IN EXPORTS, AND 5 BILLION DOLLARS IN IMPORTS. DOGAN ALSO REPORTED THAT THE IMF IS CLOSELY EXAMINING TAX MEASURES YET TO BE INTRODUCED, WITH AN EYE TO THE BALANCE BETWEEN EXPENDITURES

AND REVENUES IN THE 1978 BUDGET. MILLIYET OF MARCH 10 MAINTAINED OPTIMISM, REPORTING THAT "ACCORDING TO OUR IMF TEAM, MEASURES (TAKEN BY ECEVIT GOVERNMENT) ARE SUFFICIENT FOR CREDIT".

5. REPORTS ON IMF TALKS IN RIGHTIST AND CONSERVATIVE OPPOSITION PAPERS HAVE BEEN SCANTY AND RESTRAINED. COLUMNISTS IN MAJOR PAPERS HAVE NOT COMMENTED ON THE IMF DURING THE LAST FEW DAYS, WITH THE ECEVIT-KARAMANLIS SUMMIT AT MONTREUX PUSHING IMF REPORTING INTO THE BACKGROUND.

6. COMMENT: IT SEEMS LIKELY THAT NEGOTIATIONS WILL BE CONSIDERABLY MORE PROTRACTED THAN TURKISH PRESS REPORTS INDICATE. ALTHOUGH PRESS REPORTS OF IMF NEGOTIATIONS IN UNCLASSIFIED

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ANKARA LAST AUTUMN CREATED CONSIDERABLE SKEPTICISM AMONG TURKISH PUBLIC CONCERNING AGREEMENT WITH IMF, THOSE TURKS WHO SEE ECEVIT AS "OUR HOPE" MAY ONCE AGAIN FALL PREY TO UNREALISTIC EXPECTATIONS. CHANGING THE VENUE OF TALKS FROM ANKARA TO WASHINGTON HAS DIMINISHED, BUT NOT IMPROVED, PRESS REPORTING.  
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## Message Attributes

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Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014